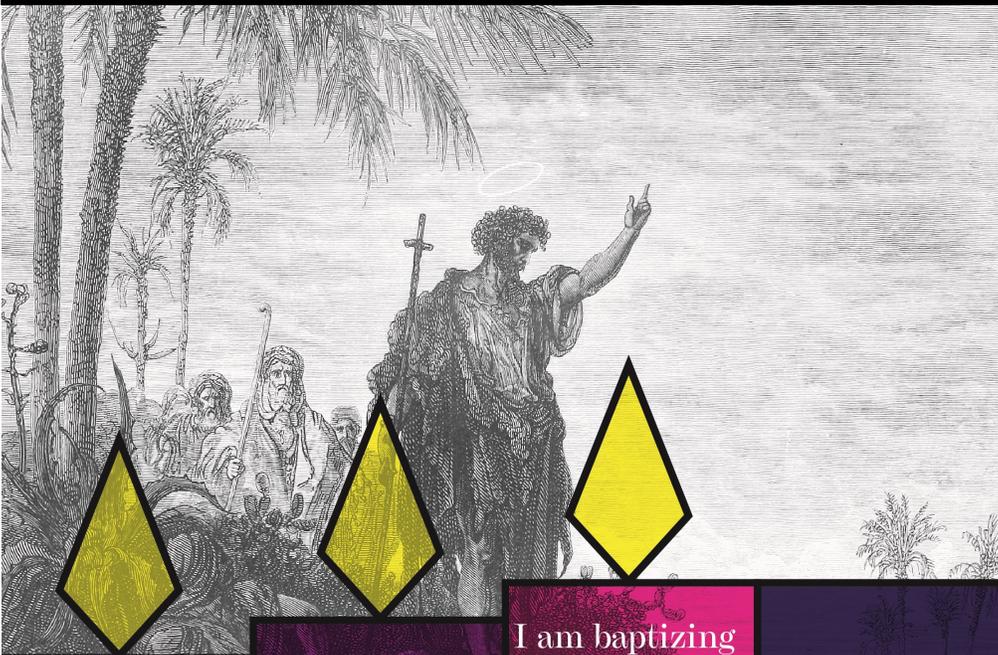




SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH
NEW ORLEANS

A Welcoming Community of Faith



*John the Baptist Preaching
in the Wilderness*
Gustav Doré
(French, 1832-1883)
1867
nickolae Adobe Stock

I am baptizing
you with water,
but one
mightier than I
is coming.
I am not
worthy to
loosen the
thongs of
his sandals.

Luke 3:16

Third
Sunday of **Advent**

December 12, 2021

Mass Schedule

Mon-Fri: 7:00am
Sat: 8:00am
4:00pm (Sunday vigil)
Sun: 7:00am, 9:00am,
10:30am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

Mon-Fri: 6:30am
Wed: 5pm
Sat: 7:30am & 3:00pm
Sun: 4:00pm
or upon request

Adoration

Mon-Fri:
6:00am-6:55am
Mon-Thu:
6:00pm-7:00pm

**St. Rita Parish
Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday
8:00am-2:00pm
2729 Lowerline St.
New Orleans, LA
504.866.3621
www.stritanola.com
office@stritanola.com



Fr. Patrick Carr



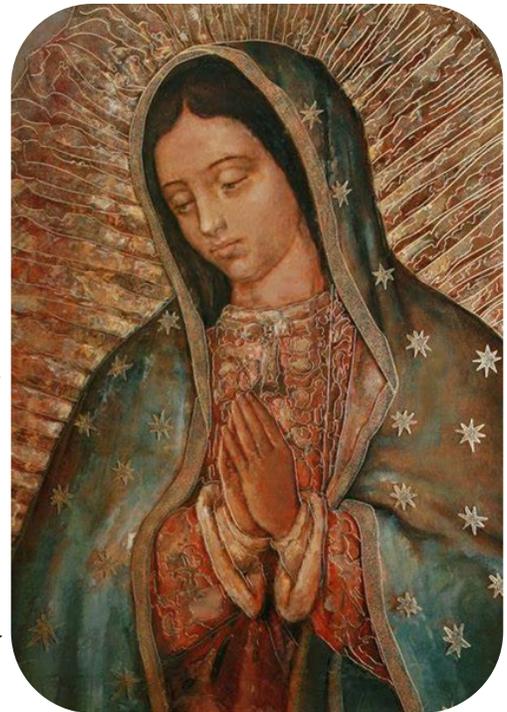
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Someone suggested to me that we need a Mother of the Americas. My comment was that we don't need one because we have one – Our Lady of Guadalupe. **Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

She is the only actual image that we have of the Mother of God. If you have a chance to see the actual image, do so. It is kept at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The image of Our Lady has baffled scientists for years. It appeared on Juan Diego's tilma 500 years ago. All of which should have disintegrated by now. Furthermore, scientists discovered that the image is floating 1/100th of an inch above Juan Diego's tilma.

The image is of a pregnant woman clothed in the sun! Moreover, her face is that of a "mestiza". Which is a mixture of Spanish and Indian races brought about by intermarriage.



Standing in front of the sun and upon the moon, with the stars of heaven arrayed on her cloak, Our Lady was showing her superiority to the cosmic elements worshipped by the Aztecs. The cosmic elements were blood-thirsty divinities, demanding human sacrifice. Mary announced herself as the mother of God and our mother. Therefore, we should treat each other with dignity.

Furthermore, by her appearance, she announced the fact that the Americas belong to all people – white, black, brown, Vietnamese, Indian, and so forth. Diversity programs and identity politics will never bring people together. Only God and his mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, will bring unity to a diverse world.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!



Saturday, December 11

8:00 am Robert Guthrie
4:00 pm Lauren Tyler Read, Tiffany & Randy Ryan, and All the Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, December 12

7:00 am For all parishioners
9:00 am Joseph Maney
10:30 am Laurie Brocato, Fr. Joseph Cazenavette, Nelda Sibley, Linda Fortado, Norma & Pete Bennett, Special Intention, the Children of Charles & Ursula Fauria and in Thanksgiving for donors to Catholic Charities
5:00 pm The Sherwood Family

Monday, December 13

7:00 am In Thanksgiving for donors to Catholic Charities

Tuesday, December 14

7:00 am Sr. Nancy Auster, Sister of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, December 15

7:00 am Cliff Stoutz

Thursday, December 16

7:00 am Ronald Aucoin

Friday, December 17

7:00 am Christopher Fauria

Saturday, December 18

8:00 am Robert Guthrie

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Weekly Collection

December 4/5

1st Collection

\$5,073.50

2nd Collection— Building & Maintenance

\$1,942.37

Thank you for your continued generosity!

**SAVE THE DATE, MEN!
2022 ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
MEN'S CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, METAIRIE**

QUICK. DIGITAL. SECURE.
 GIVE ONLINE
Register to support St. Rita.

Angel tree gifts are due back this weekend - December 11/12

It is very important that you return your angel's gifts timely, so we can deliver them before Christmas.

Make sure your angel tag is attached securely to your gift and simply place your gift under the trees near the sanctuary.



2nd Collection This Weekend



Archdiocese of New Orleans

Office of the Archbishop

7887 Walmisley Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125-3496
Main Line: (504) 861-9521
Office: (504) 861-6205
Fax (504) 314-9614
www.archdiocese-no.org

December 1, 2021

To: Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel."¹ As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection—an appeal that benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows.

Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Wishing you God's blessings and with the assurance of my prayers, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

¹Pope Francis, *Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*, July 25, 2021 (<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonniti/documents/20210531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>).

This letter is to be made available the weekend of December 4th and December 5th in a manner which you deem most effective. Thank you.



*The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.*

— Zephaniah 3:15b

Prayers for Vocations

This week we ask your prayers for:

Deacon Dennis Obieniu & Brett Barrios

Heavenly Father, You have created each of us to love You and your people.

You have chosen some to serve by responding to the particular call to the priesthood and religious life. Send your Holy Spirit to stir the hearts of those You have designed to follow this path of spiritual leadership.

We pray this petition, faithful and most gracious God, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Eucharist Lecture Series

HOSTED BY NOTRE DAME SEMINARY



"The Eucharist and the Future of the Church," by Archbishop Alfred Hughes
Wednesday, December 15th, 2021

Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 5:30 pm with
lecture and Q&A to follow from 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Schulte Auditorium at Notre Dame Seminary

If you have missed any of the previous events, they are available to view at:
<https://nds.edu/els/>

Reflection for the 3rd week of Advent

How am I faithfully awaiting the Lord's Nativity?

Collect text from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*, © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

We Pray

May the God of peace make us completely holy.
May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and
body

for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Forever faithful is the One who calls us—God our
Father!

Expectant, let us live in joyful hope
for the revelation of the glory
of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!

To him be glory forever!

Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by
World Library Publications. p. 127

Exaltation of the Afflicted

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

Because the LORD has anointed me

To bring good news to the afflicted;

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to captives

And freedom to prisoners;

To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD

And the day of vengeance of our God;

To comfort all who mourn,

To grant those who mourn *in Zion*,

Giving them a garland instead of ashes,

The oil of gladness instead of mourning,

The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of

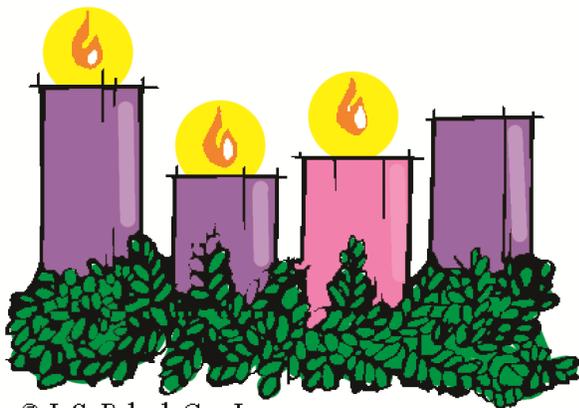
fainting.

So they will be called oaks of righteousness,

The planting of the LORD, that He may be

glorified.

Isaiah 61:1-3



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc
-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19,
23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14;
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b;
Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;
Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES



Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Lucy

Tuesday: St. John of the Cross

The Legend of St. Lucy

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up about her. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life.

After several prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, Lucy saw the saint in a dream. St. Agatha told Lucy her mother's illness would be cured through faith, which Lucy used to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and allow her to commit her life to God.

While Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, the rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor Paschasius. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen.

The guards heaped bundles of wood around her but it wouldn't burn so they finally resorted to their swords, and Lucy met her death.

Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them.

When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Lucy, whose name can mean "light" or "lucid," is the patron saint of the blind.

SRYA Dec Events

- 12/9 Second Thursday Praise and Worship
@ St. Rita from 6-7 pm; Fellowship at Wrong Iron after
- 12/16 Diving Deeper into Advent as Young Adults
@ St Rita from 7-8 pm (Fellowship to follow)

Join our groupme for
more updated info!



Pro Life News

Be a life saver and join us!

Peaceful, prayerful life saving apostolate in New Orleans at Women's Health Care Center, 2701 General Pershing St. and Planned Parenthood, 4636 Claiborne Ave.

Come for 10, 15, 30 minutes, or longer. Pray out loud or in silence JUST COME!

Mon-Thu 8am-11am at General Pershing
Sat 8:15am-10:00am General Pershing or
Planned Parenthood

For more details email: Wilson Breaux
xr89k@yahoo.com or Delores Dufour
nonnifq@cox.net

Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas

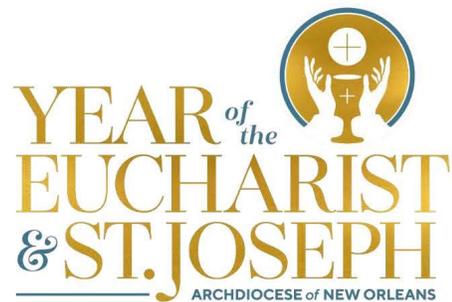
December 24
4pm & 6pm

December 25
7am, 9am & 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary

December 31
4pm

January 1
8am



Monthly Explanation of the Mass

The Real Presence and Reception of the Eucharist

Our God is a God who is faithful to His promises! He has promised to be with us always, and as Christians, we know that we need Christ to be present in our lives. He is our very sustenance as he reminded us: *unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you* (John 6:53).

The truth of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist is precisely what the priest is proclaiming at Mass as he raises the consecrated bread and wine saying, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him..." Jesus Christ is truly present – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – under the forms of bread and wine. It is not ordinary bread and ordinary drink that we receive in the Eucharist, but the flesh and blood of Christ, who came to nourish and transform us, to restore our relationship to God and to one another.

During Holy Communion, the minister raises the host for each person and professes faith in the Real Presence saying, "Body of Christ;" we bow our head in reverence to Christ and respond in faith: Amen. Our Amen has a two-fold meaning: 1) it is our assent of faith in Christ's real presence in the Eucharist; and 2) it is our promise to become more like Christ and allow Him to live in us more fully in our daily lives.

Saint John Paul II reminds us that in our reception of the Eucharist, not only do we receive Christ in His fullness, but He also receives each of us, for we become a part of Him. Authentic communion with Christ, therefore, can never be private – we cannot have true communion with Christ without also desiring communion with all of our sisters and brothers.

Parish Resources

St. Rita Parish Mission Statement

St. Rita Catholic Parish is a diverse and welcoming community of faith dedicated to forming disciples of the Good News of Jesus Christ through Word, Sacrament, and Service. In communion with the teachings of the Catholic Church and in partnership with Notre Dame Seminary, St. Rita's disciples witness to their personal faith as a community on mission, extending God's presence to our New Orleans neighborhoods.

St. Rita Parish Office Contacts

2729 Lowerline St.
New Orleans, LA 70125
504.866.3621

office@stritanola.com

www.stritanola.com

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Carr

Business Manager: Mrs. Melissa Mandella

Social Worker: Mrs. Brittany Breaux

St. Rita Catholic School

65 Fontainebleau Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70125
504.866.1777

www.stritanola.org

Principal: Mrs. Shanda Theriot

St. Rita Parish Ministries

Do you have a calling to serve?

Do you have a talent to share?

If you have an interest in serving St. Rita's Parish, please contact the parish office to learn more about available opportunities!

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Lector/Reader

Music Ministry

Altar Society

Flower Ministry

Children's Liturgy

Bible Study

Small Faith Groups

Youth Ministry

Young Adult Ministry

And more....

Call the parish office at 866.3621 or

Email: office@stritanola.org

For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. – Ephesians 2:10

Sacraments

Infant Baptism

Go to www.stritanola.com to download the necessary paperwork. Complete the forms and return them to the parish office. First-time parents and godparents, are expected to attend a Baptismal Preparation seminar prior to the baptism being scheduled. The classes are offered here at St. Rita the first Tuesday of each month. Please call the office to confirm your attendance. Once complete, the baptism will be scheduled.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the process for initiation into the Catholic Church and an opportunity for those interested in becoming Catholic to explore the life and teachings of Christ through prayer, study, reflection, and community. For information contact the parish office

Weddings

The policy of the Archdiocese of New Orleans requires a six month preparation period for marriage. During this time, the couple will meet with the priest or deacon and participate in the Archdiocese marriage preparation program. Engaged couples should contact the parish office no later than six months prior to the anticipated wedding date.

Funerals

We ask that the Pastor is contacted before the family makes any arrangements with the funeral director. Family members are asked to meet with the priest to prepare for the funeral liturgy.

St. Rita,

*pray
for us*

